

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 were pending. Claim 5 has been cancelled, claims 30-32 have been added, and claim 1 has been amended. Therefore claims 1-4 and 6-32 remain pending subsequent entry of the present amendment.

Allowed Claims

Claims 22-29 are allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 5, 13, 15, and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections

In the present Office Action, claims 1-3, 6-10, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,285,685 (hereinafter “Bum”), in view of newly cited U.S. Patent No. 5,712,903 (hereinafter “Bartholomew”). Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bum in view of Bartholomew, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,973,680 (hereinafter “Ueda”). Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bum in view Bartholomew and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,785,901 (hereinafter “Horowitz”). Claims 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bum in view of Bartholomew and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,835,087 (hereinafter “Herz”). Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bum in view Bartholomew and in further view of Herz in further view of U.S. Patent No. U.S. Patent No. 6,820,277 (hereinafter “Eldering”).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and official notices of the present Office Action. However, in order to facilitate a more speedy allowance of the present application, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the feature of claim 5. Therefore, claim 1 and all its dependent claims are in condition for allowance. New claims 30-32 reflect allowable claims 3, 13, and 15 in independent form, respectively.

Therefore, all claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) is necessary to prevent the above-referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such an extension. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5266-08100/RDR.

Respectfully submitted,

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